MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Soil and Water Conservation Program

Quarterly Update

June 2025

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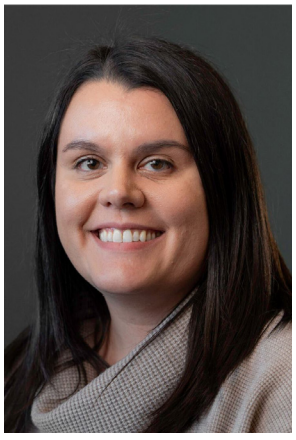
STAFF UPDATES

Tanner Patton

Tanner Patton joined the Soil and Water Conservation Program in April, filling Stacy Breesawitz's District Coordinator position domiciled in the Southwest Regional Office. He received his Bachelor of Science in Ecology and Field Biology from College of the Ozarks in 2022. Prior to accepting his position with the program, Tanner worked as the Coordinating Grazing Lands Biologist for Pheasants and Quail Forever. In that position, he worked with producers to implement native warm season grasses and rotational grazing systems into their farms. Tanner grew up on his family's rotational grazing dairy operation in Dade County, where he still plays an active role. He is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys spending time hunting and fishing with his wife. Tanner is excited about his new role with the Soil and Water Conservation Program and looks forward to continuing conservation work on the agricultural lands of southwest Missouri.



Jordan Butler

Jordan Butler joined the Soil and Water Conservation Program in January, filling Ashley McDaniel's vacant coordinator position in southwest Missouri. Jordan received her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Plant Science from Missouri State University in 2023. She is a native of northeast Nebraska where she grew up on a diversified row crop and confinement hog operation. Currently she resides in Republic with her 12-year-old son and 1-year-old goldendoodle.

END OF YEAR REMINDERS

As another fiscal year wraps up, please take a moment to remind or familiarize yourself with end of year dates and best practices. To ensure that payments are processed as efficiently as possible, please submit cost-share payments in a timely manner. Payments are reviewed in the order they are received. Once we reach our appropriation authority, some cost-share payments may have to be rolled into FY26. When contracts rollover a change order must be created by changing the termination date to a date into the FY26 year. Rollover

change orders must be signed by both the cooperator and the board. FY25 rollover contracts in pending contract status will be given a new contract number. In addition, a MoSWIMS note is generated to indicate that the contract is a rollover. Contracts should be submitted by midnight June 16, 2025, with a status of PEND PO FIN in order to be paid in FY25.

Remember the contract payment review process allows the program to ensure that Missouri taxpayer money is used according to commission policy. During the review process, program staff try to remain as consistent as possible. It is important that districts include any relevant notes that would aid in the review process. For example, items that make the contract unique or clarify questions that may arise.

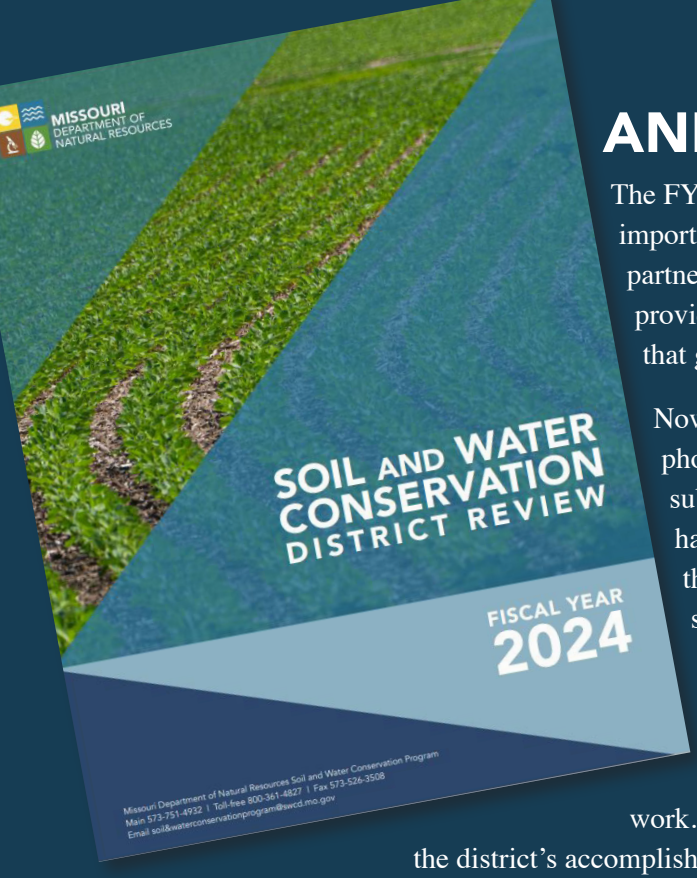
Due to the state transitioning from the OA Vendor form that we have used in the past to the Missouri BUYS powered by MOVERS, districts are encouraged to urge suppliers to register in the new system as soon as possible. The old forms will no longer be accepted in the near future. As a friendly reminder, prior to submitting contracts for payment please ensure that the EFT status is correct. When the EFT status is a green circle with checkmark, then that contract is ready to submit for payment. The program office cannot process payments that do not have an active EFT status and will have to return them. Another important item to note is that shared employees must have 200 hours outside their administrative district recorded in MoSWIMS by the end of the fiscal year to continue to receive the additional stipend from state funds. Any expenses for FY25, including payroll tax liabilities, must be paid on or before June 30, 2025. MOSWIMS should be unlocked around July 14, 2025.

ENVIROTHON RECAP

The 2024 Missouri State Envirothon competition was held at Prairie Fork Conservation Area in Williamsburg. Fifteen teams from across the state came together to compete for the opportunity to represent Missouri in the national competition held in Canada in June 2025. We did have some logistical challenges with the rainy, muddy weather, but thanks to our volunteers and hosting location, things still went smoothly and we were able to have a successful event in a beautiful location.

The top five teams are as follows:

1st Parkway North-St. Louis Region
2nd Parkway South-St. Louis Region
3rd Lindbergh-St. Louis Region
4th Smith Cotton Gold-Central Region
5th Central D-SW Region



ANNUAL REPORT

The FY24 Annual Report has been posted and ready to showcase the important work that each soil and water districts, boards and conservation partnerships accomplished in FY24! Thank you to the districts that provided an article and photos for this publication. There is a lot of work that goes into organizing and fact checking a publication of this size.

Now that FY25 is wrapping up, Kelsey Kempker will be compiling photos, cost-share numbers, and contacting districts for more submissions. It is a goal for the FY25 Annual Report that all districts have a write-up highlighting the important work that was done in the 2025 fiscal year. The content for each district will have the same layout in terms of the dollar amount of cost-share spent, list of board members, office address and number of staff for the FY. However, the accompanying paragraph does not even have to be related to cost-share numbers. Each district works hard, and the Program Office wants to recognize your great work. This is the district's opportunity to tell your story and share the district's accomplishments. This could include something your district is proud of, something that your district does well, or you feel would help other districts. It could also be a specific cost-share practice project that turned out well, general information about staff/board/district, e.g. how long staff has been with the district, or a particular event that the district has sponsored. This publication provides a central location for access to valuable information by anyone that is interested, giving districts the ability to work more collaboratively, and making the Soil and Water Conservation Program as successful as possible.

DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

The Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District, which was founded in 1986, has continued its legacy of community agriculture through more than 35 years of education and customer appreciation by hosting annual meetings, poster contests and agriculture conferences.

This year the district had a great turn out with 225 people in attendance at their annual meeting. Students who participated in the poster contest were recognized and provided with prizes for the top posters. Educational workshops such as beekeeping, grazing systems, cost-share programs with districts and NRCS, urban agriculture, small ruminant farming, wildlife management, pond management, forest management, and rain simulators were all available for participants.